

**United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Criminal Investigation Division  
Investigative Activity Report**

**Case Number**

0500-0614

**Case Title:**

Village of Crestwood, IL

**Reporting Office:**

Chicago, IL, Area Office

**Subject of Report:**

Interview of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**Activity Date:**

April 29, 2009

**Copies to:**

**Related Files:**

**Reporting Official and Date:**

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), SA

11-MAY-2009, Signed by: (b) (6), (b) (7), SA

**Approving Official and Date:**

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), SAC

13-MAY-2009, Approved by: (b) (6), (b) (7), SAC

**SYNOPSIS**

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) is a licensed drinking water operator. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that until reading a Crestwood, IL Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), he was unaware that Crestwood officials were not reporting the use of a well in the village which had known quantities of hazardous pollutants which were not reflected in the CCR. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that he contacted the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) in August 2007, to report the Village of Crestwood.

**DETAILS**

On April 29, 2009, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) laborer, was interviewed by Special Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Criminal Investigation Division (CID) and the reporting agent at the Village of Crestwood maintenance shop, 14040 S. Kildare, Crestwood, IL. After being advised of the identity of the agents and the nature of the interview, (b) (6), (b) (7) provided the following information.

(b) (6), (b) (7) stated he has been a general laborer for Crestwood for the previous two years, following active duty as a U.S. Marine and then earning a four year college degree in business administration. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that he independently studied and obtained Drinking Water Certifications for Class C and D Drinking Water facilities because he would like to become a drinking water inspector. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that his duties as assigned include weed cutting, snowplowing, equipment repairs and tree trimming.

(b) (6), (b) (7) stated that he never worked on the water tower for Crestwood, but became aware that there was a problem with Crestwood's lack of reporting of use of the well by combining well water with water purchased from the Village of Alsip, IL. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that he and all of the village laborers are aware that Crestwood had freely used the well for years, although Crestwood officials attempted to keep the use

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"secret." (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that the former Crestwood Mayor (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Crestwood Inspector (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) discussed use of the well in (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) presence a number of times.

(b) (6), (b) (7) stated that in August 2007, he was in the presence of Mayor (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7) when the discussion of use of the well was covered. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that (b) (6), (b) (7) and Mayor (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) discussed that the well pump was not to be run for more than four hours at a time otherwise the well would run dry due to overuse. Mayor (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7) agreed to run the well pump for four hours on, then four hours off, through the use of an electric timer. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that use of the well was not a secret to any of the maintenance crew in Crestwood, which is comprised of approximately six individuals.

In December 2007, Crestwood Drinking Water Inspector (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7) discussed shutting off the well permanently. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that although (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) is the Villages' Drinking Water Inspector, (b) (6), (b) (7) is also licensed as a Drinking Water Inspector as well. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that he was not involved in the decision to cap the well, but was present for the conversation. Later in December 2007, the well was closed, but not finally capped until approximately 30-45 days prior to this interview.

(b) (6), (b) (7) continued, stating that when he contacted the IEPA in August 2007, concerning his objections to the use of the well, he spoke with what sounded to be the voice of a white male individual. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that he informed the IEPA about the use of the tainted well, but never heard back from IEPA.

(b) (6), (b) (7) stated that on Sunday's an inspection of the pump house meter for the water tower is required. This meter inspection is needed twice a week and is not related to the use of the well. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that on occasion, he would be checking the meter at the pump house and would get within the vicinity of the well, and observe the pump operating the well.

(b) (6), (b) (7) was asked if he ever observed samples taken that were not representative of the drinking water being sent to the Village of Crestwood. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that in January 2008, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was off of work with an injury, and (b) (6), (b) (7) was tasked with taking drinking water samples from various locations within the Village of Crestwood. These locations typically included the water tower pump house, a location at

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142nd and Pulaski Street, a location at either Laverne or Laramie Street, and a fourth location within the Village Hall. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that on a morning in January he noticed a box of sample jars in a cardboard box. The 4-6 ounce jars were new, and were unused. Within an hour of observing the jars, they were filled and were in the refrigerator waiting to be picked up for analysis. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that he believed (b) (6), (b) (7) filled the bottles from the tap water within the office. When asked if he observed (b) (6), (b) (7) filling the bottles, (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that he had not, but that (b) (6), (b) (7) had not left the maintenance building area and even if he had, the bottles could not be filled that quickly at all four locations.

(b) (6), (b) (7) further added that this was not the only time during the extended injury of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) that he observed new, empty drinking water sample jars mysteriously going from empty to full on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) desk. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that to take four samples at four locations within town would take a period of time to complete. At various dates during Strutzenberg's absence he noted the jars filled with water within short periods of time from when their storage boxes were first opened, without (b) (6), (b) (7) leaving the building.

(b) (6), (b) (7) was asked if he had other information to offer. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that he had called the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on a number of occasions complaining of health and safety conditions within Crestwood. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that Crestwood maintenance staff work under a "commission" and are renewed or terminated each spring. Working for the Village is extremely political, according to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). As an example, (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that when water main problems exist, a shoring box is needed to prevent cave-ins. Crestwood does not have a shoring box and refuses to spend the money to purchase or rent one, according to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). Additional safety violations have been reported, but not acted upon.

(b) (6), (b) (7) was asked if any questions were not asked of him that he wanted to discuss prior to completion of the interview. (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that he wanted to go on the record as having observed CCR reports issued to the community that were inaccurate and false. (b) (6), (b) (7) wanted to report that (b) (6), (b) (7) submitted drinking water samples that were not representative of the Village. (b) (6), (b) (7) wanted it noted that he had contacted the IEPA in a timely fashion when he realized that Crestwood officials were adding tainted well water to the Village water supply. And finally, (b) (6), (b) (7) stated that he wanted the record set straight for

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the community as he is licensed and wants to pursue the position of Drinking Water Inspector when the opportunity arises. (b) (6), (b) (7) was thanked for his time and the interview was concluded.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Chicago, IL

IL CDL: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

SSN: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 1

Cell: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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